operations of foodgrains; strengthening of Public Distribution System; monitoring of prices and availability situation; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; augmenting domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary, to check any abnormal rise in prices.

Apart from the measures on the broad macro-economic front, specific measures have also been taken by the Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure, such as, edible oils, pulses, tea, sugar and cement etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Review of increase in the prices of commodities

540. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review of the prices of different commodities in the market;

(b) if so, the details of the latest trend;

(c) whether the prices of edible oils including vanaspati are increasing substantially;

(d) if so, the reasons of the rise in the prices of these commodities;

(e) the steps taken to arrest the price rise; and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Government are constantly reviewing the behaviour of prices of various essential commodities on the basis of Wholesale Price Indices and other available data.

(b) During the last six months ending 21-7-1990 (between weeks ending 20-1-90 and 21-7-90), the Wholesale Price Index of rice was higher by 8.2% as compared to an increase of 9.0% and 10.2% in the corresponding periods in 1989 and 1988 respectively; the index of sugar, tea, *jowar*, chillies, black pepper, *atta, maida* have declined, while kerosene and coke remained steady during this period. There has, however, been a significant rise in the case of oilseeds and edible oils.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. The main reasons for rise in prices of edible oils and vanaspati are due to the decline in production of oilseeds during 1989-90, pressure of consumer demand, demand and supply gap in edible oils, and constraint of foreign exchange to make larger imports.

(e) and (f): Government has accorded highest priority to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities. Both long term and short term measures are being taken for the purpose. The measures taken broadly include steps to increase the production of essential commodities; effective procurement and buffer stocking operations of foodgrains, strengthening of Public Distribution System, monitoring of price and availability situation, strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act and other regulatory measures; and augmenting domestic supplies through imports (e.g. edible oils) subject to over all constraint of foreign exchange resources.

Increase in the price of edible oils and vanaspati ghee

541. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the price of edible oils and vanaspati ghee during the last three years, yearwise;

(b) what had been the corresponding increase of each when compared to